

Central Indiana

September 2015

Climate Summary

Tied for 21st Warmest on record at Indianapolis

36th Driest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

September started out hot with multiples days in the lower and middle 90s through the Labor Day weekend. At Indianapolis, it was the hottest start to a September in 90 years with seven of the first eight days of the month at or above 90 degrees. The heat finally broke on the 9th with the passage of a cold front, and the arrival of an upper level trough brought the coolest highs experienced since May as many locations remained in the middle and upper 60s on the 11th and 12th.

Temperatures once again returned to above normal levels by the middle of the month and remained there for most of the second half of September. Highs were largely above 75 degrees throughout the second half of the month with multiple days warming into the 80s. Cooler weather arrived on the 29th as a cold front slowly made its way through central Indiana, with highs remaining in the 60s for the last day of the month.

At Indianapolis, the average temperature of 70.5 degrees resulted in the warmest September since 2010. The 18 days of highs at 80 degrees or warmer also was the most in a September since 2010. The 7 days of highs 90 degrees or warmer in September was the most since 1999.

Site	September 2015 Avg Temp	September 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature

Indianapolis	70.5	+3.6	94 on 4	46 on 13
Lafayette	68.6	+2.4	94 on 4	44 on 13
Muncie	66.7	+1.2	90 on 6 and 7	43 on 21 and 22
Terre Haute	68.7	+2.8	94 on 4 and 6	42 on 13 and 21
Bloomington	68.9	+3.3	93 on 6	44 on 14 and 21
Shelbyville	70.6	+5.1	94 on 4 and 5	47 on 13 and 22
Indy – Eagle Crk.	69.4	+2.3	93 on 4	46 on 14

At Indianapolis, there were 23 days with above normal average temperatures and 7 days with below normal average temperatures.

September 2015 was tied for the 21st warmest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

Precipitation

September rainfall ranged from below normal in southern Indiana to much above normal in northwest Indiana. Monthly totals measured from 0.75 inches in southern Indiana to nearly 11 inches in northwest Indiana. Much of the area along and north of the I-70 corridor received between 2 and 4 inches of rain during the month while south of I-70 received only 1 to 3 inches.

Rainfall was not equally distributed during September. Rain occurred nearly each day in the state from the 1st through the 12th, but only on the 18th and 19th from the 13th through the 25th. Spotty showers returned to central and southern Indiana on 26th and 27th with widespread coverage in central and southern Indiana on the 29th. Daily rainfall totals exceeded 2 inches in scattered areas on the 1st, 5th, 9th, 11th, 18th, 19th and 29th.

River or stream flooding did not occur in central or southern Indiana for the first since October 2014. Abnormally dry conditions developed in more than 30% of the state by the 22nd according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The dry areas were in southern Indiana. Rainfall of a half inch or more on the 29th helped alleviate the abnormally dry conditions in southern Indiana.

Site	September 2015 Precipitation	September 2015 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch
Indianapolis	1.70	-1.42	0.58 on 19	6 days 20-25
Lafayette	2.87	+0.21	1.23 on 19	6 days 20-25
Muncie	2.17	-0.79	0.91 on 12	6 days 20-25
Terre Haute	2.23	-1.19	0.42 on 9	7 days 20-26
Bloomington	1.26	-2.09	0.35 on 9	8 days 1-8

Shelbyville	1.76	-1.41	0.81 on 29	6 days 12-17 and 20-25
Indy – Eagle Crk.	2.20	-0.05	1.11 on 19	6 days 20-25

September 2015 was the 36th driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Scattered strong to severe storms developed on the afternoon and evening of the 4th focused over the eastern half of central Indiana. A measured 70 mph wind gust brought trees and limbs down near Greenfield, and penny to nickel size hail was reported from the eastern Indianapolis suburbs east into Hancock County.

A line of severe storms moved into the northern Wabash valley late on the evening of the 18th before weakening, producing penny size hail and wind gusts up to 80 mph over parts of Tippecanoe County.

For information on severe weather in other areas during September, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 31 mph out of the south-southwest on the 19th with thunderstorms in the vicinity. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 11 days during the month. Thunder was reported on 4 days during September.

October 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for October 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates equal chances of above, near or below normal temperatures for central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 55.0 degrees. The outlook also suggests a greater chance of near to slightly below normal precipitation. The average precipitation for October at Indianapolis is 3.12” and average snowfall is 0.4”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.